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November/December 2012

October 1st Policy Affects Public Providers

CDC implemented a policy change effective October 1, 2012, to ensure federally purchased vaccine is used

for those who are least able to pay for vaccination. The policy restricts use of federally purchased vaccine for fully insured persons as a step toward assuring vaccine remains available for those who are least able to pay for vaccination, such as uninsured and underinsured individuals. Underinsured is defined as a person who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines; a person whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (eligible for non-covered vaccines only); or a person whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once the coverage amount is reached, the person is considered underinsured. The policy change affects Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Local Health Departments (LHDs), and participating public hospitals where insured patients were eligible for federally purchased vaccine prior to the policy change. Guidance has been updated for these providers. The policy affects the Section 317 Immunization Program only, not the VFC eligible population. A Q&A document regarding these changes is located at: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/317QandA.pdf>

Interim Storage and Handling Guidance

New guidance from CDC prohibits the use of dormitory or bar-style refrigerator/freezers for ANY vaccine storage. Compliance with the guidance will be assessed during your 2013 VVFC site visit. The interim guidance can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/interim-storage-handling.pdf>

Flu Update

Contact Susan Kocen if you need VFC flu vaccine. All formulations are available. MedImmune will once again offer their replacement program to exchange expired or short-dated FluMist. Providers who ordered VFC FluMist will be sent reminders. Information on this program is located at: <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/Immunization/VFC/documents/2012CDCInstructionsReplacementProgram.pdf>

Vaccine Supply

Pentacel continues to be allocated by CDC as explained in the September fax and e-mail communications to providers. ProQuad will be available through VVFC in November. Please check for an updated order form at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/Immunization/VFC/vfcForms.htm> which will include ProQuad early in November.

VTckS/VIIS Update

CDC has developed a new system for processing vaccine orders and managing vaccine accountability. The CDC system is called VTckS. Virginia will begin using VTckS early in 2013.

Concurrently, a VFC Vaccine Ordering Module is being created in the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS). Orders placed through VIIS will be uploaded to VTckS. VFC providers are strongly encouraged to contact the VIIS program to obtain access to this web-based application. VFC providers who use

VIIS for documenting patient immunization records and for managing inventory will avoid having to conduct a physical inventory when placing vaccine orders. Additionally, VIIS can generate reports for your office's VFC Registration and facilitate vaccine accountability reporting. To learn more, contact the Central Office at 804-864-8055 and speak with a registry consultant.

Holiday Shipping

Vaccine shipments from McKesson will be HELD the week of Thanksgiving AND from December 24-January 2. The VVFC Order Center will not enter direct-ship orders to avoid deliveries from Merck during these same time periods, however a few direct-shipments might arrive. Providers should indicate any changes to routine hours on the order form and should order vaccine mindful of their Holiday closures.

Emergency Plans

VVFC has implemented a vaccine replacement policy. Avoid costly mistakes by taking time to ensure each staff member is aware of what to do when vaccine arrives and when inclement weather is forecasted.

Gold Star Awards

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Keysville Pediatrics, Keysville
Practice of Dr. Ona, Franklin

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Blue Ridge Family Medicine & Peds., Rural Retreat
Capital Area Pediatrics, Falls Church
Capital Area Pediatrics, Herndon
Centra Southside Pediatric Clinic, Farmville
Children's Medical Center, Martinsville
Fuller-Roberts Clinic, South Boston
Greever Rural Health Clinic, Chilhowie
Khan Pediatric Care, Ashburn
Medical Associates of Lee, Pennington Gap
New Horizon Pediatrics, Reston
P. L. Physicians, Fredericksburg
Pediatric Associates of Winchester, Winchester
Piedmont Pediatrics, Charlottesville
Practice of Dr. Adawadkar, Woodbridge
Practice of Dr. Rentia, Falls Church
Saltville Medical Center, Saltville
Sentara Pediatric Physicians, Williamsburg
Virginia Beach Pediatrics, Virginia Beach
Walnut Grove Family Medicine, Bristol

Process Improvement

Pediatric Center – Dr. Holman in Hampton overcame the vaccine ordering challenges associated with a small VFC population, when often the minimum order quantity can't be used before its expiration date.

Carilion Family Medicine Parkway Physicians in Troutville held required educational meetings for all staff, making vaccine storage and handling a practice-wide responsibility and not assigned to one person.

